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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(71) Applicant *(for AE only)*: **U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION** [US/US]; 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10510-8001 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **LEVENE, Simha** [IL/NL]; P.O. Box 220, NL-5600 AE Eindhoven (NL). **MALAMUD, Gabriel** [IL/NL]; P.O. Box 220, NL-5600 AE Eindhoven (NL). **ALTMAN, Ami** [IL/NL]; P.O. Box 220, NL-5600 AE Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.**; c/o LUNDIN, Thomas, M., 595 Miner Road, Cleveland, OH 44143 (US).

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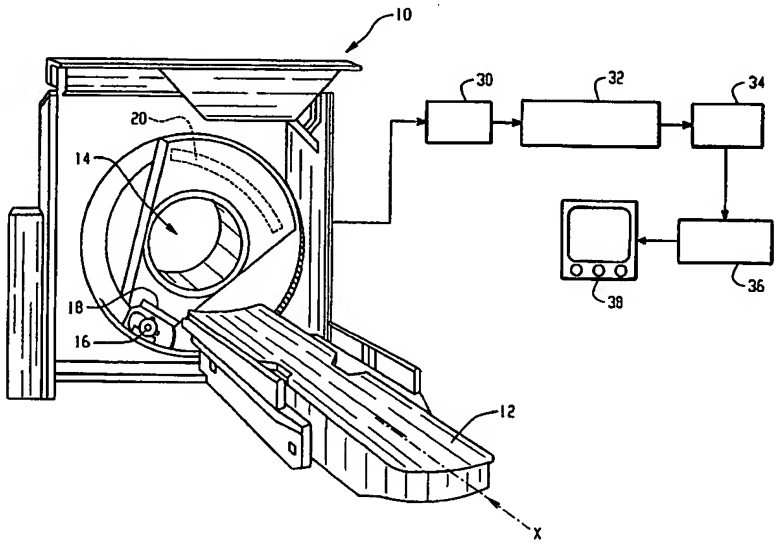
(54) Title: SHAPED ANODE X-RAY TUBE



(57) Abstract: An x-ray tube (16) suitable for use in a computed tomography (CT) scanner (10) includes an envelope (42) which defines an evacuated chamber. An anode (40) and a cathode assembly (70) are disposed within the chamber. The anode defines a target area (56) which is struck by electrons (52) emitted by a filament (54) of the cathode assembly and emits x-rays (46). The target area lies partially on a first annular portion (80) which is disposed at first angle (a) relative to a plane perpendicular to an axis of rotation (R) of the anode, and partially on a second portion (82,120) which is radially spaced from the first portion and disposed at a second angle (ß), relative to the plane. The second angle is greater than the first angle. The portions of different slope allow the x-ray tube to take advantage of a shallow angle, while minimizing the heel effect.

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